

I am concerned about Bellsouth's petition to end regulation of Broadband service. I use an independent service provider for my DSL service for several reasons, and would cringe at the thought of having to use the services of my local phone company.

I am a computer professional, and I use my internet connection for both education and pleasure. With my ISP, I am free to experiment with any configurations they support, including my own mail servers, or any other servers I want to learn about. I am free to connect other equipment, such as routers, and can get support without needing to install their special software and disconnecting my own. They understand my questions, and support me. My friends that get their service for the phone company tell me the horror stories about calling for support, and talking to someone in India that can only read a script, and support purely standard configurations.

Please don't let the phone companies have total control of internet access. This will certainly stifle creativity and development of anything other than a TV-like environment of passive entertainment.

Thank you for providing this forum for us to express our opinions.

Sincerely,
Martin Fried